

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 were pending. Claims 1 and 3-6 have been rewritten, Claim 2 cancelled and Claims 7-8 added. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment. Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending after entry of this amendment.

Rejection of Claims

Claims 1 and 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kataoka (U.S. Patent 5,995,104). Claim 2 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but the Examiner indicated it would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitations of base Claim 1.

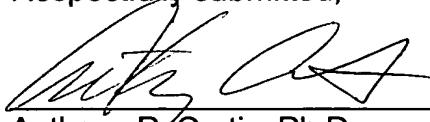
Applicant has amended Claim 1 to incorporate the elements of Claim 2. Applicant has eliminated some of the elements of Claim 1 and provided these elements in new Claim 7. Applicant submits that Claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 1 recites an input device in which an outer casing is provided with an operating lever surrounded by key switches. The key switches are subjected to a surface treatment that gives different surface touches from key to key. Neither Kataoka nor any of the other cited references anticipates or discloses such an arrangement. For at least this reason, Applicant submits that the pending claims are patentable over the cited references.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, she is requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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